

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF CENTRE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**RESOLUTION 13 OF 2017**

**WHEREAS**, More than 22,000 Centre County residents struggle with hunger and food insecurity;

**WHEREAS**, food insecurity negatively impacts the ability of children to learn, lowers worker productivity, and jeopardizes the health of senior citizens;

**WHEREAS**, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a foundation as the first line of defense against hunger, helping more than 14% of Pennsylvanians buy groceries every month and lifting more than 13% of households out of poverty;

**WHEREAS**, 8,047 Centre County residents participate in SNAP, including 2,727 children, 1,343 seniors, and 1,323 persons with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, cumulatively SNAP brought residents \$10.4 million in food purchasing power during 2016, allowing them to dedicate a larger share of their limited income to other basic necessities while also benefitting 75 retailers in Centre County that accept SNAP;

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of SNAP goes beyond food purchases, with each dollar of SNAP generating \$1.70 in the local economy – or \$17.7 million in Centre County in 2016, benefiting local businesses, farmers and other food producers, and creating jobs;

**WHEREAS**, the Centre County Board of Commissioners (“The Board”) supports the current SNAP and funding structure, as a change to a block grant would place additional strain on both recipients and state and local governments by seriously undermining the program’s responsiveness, leaving struggling families and individuals who currently have modest benefits with less access to food, and further weakening the economy since SNAP benefits are redeemed quickly and locally;

**WHEREAS**, the Board supports adequate federal and state funding for a wide range of supportive services to ensure states and counties have the proper resources to assist individuals in finding work and remaining employed;

**WHEREAS**, the Board additionally relies on the Federal food and nutrition programs beyond SNAP for Pennsylvania’s state and local governments’ anti-hunger efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides \$22,000 in vital support to Centre County food banks and other charities in their efforts to help feed the most vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides 416 boxes of specified foods to 40 low-income Centre County senior citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the Board urges Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service to pursue solutions that address obstacles communities face in ensuring access to healthy foods and eating habits, by adequately funding Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive, and the Healthy Food Financing Initiative;

**WHEREAS**, the Board support the goals of maintaining low levels of fraud and error rates within the SNAP program. Counties believe that a federal commitment to streamlining the program, increased technological advances and additional flexibility to eliminate systemic program issues – including program churn – will help achieve this goal;

**WHEREAS**, Federal law permits a tax deduction for allowable contributions to tax exempt charitable organizations;

**WHEREAS**, Residents of Centre County care deeply about the problem of hunger, supporting the charitable food pantries and cupboards;

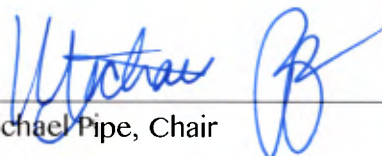
**WHEREAS**, Centre County administers the State Food Purchase Program, which provides \$94,000 to supplement the nutrition needs of 3,900 low-income adults, children, and senior citizens.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Centre County Board of Commissioners recognize **September** as **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** and:

- (1) Oppose efforts to block grant, reduce funding, or structurally change SNAP such that the program would be unable to respond efficiently and effectively to changes in the economy, natural disasters, or to challenging personal circumstances faced by individuals who need food assistance;
- (2) Oppose efforts to cut other nutrition programs funded in the Farm Bill, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Commodity Supplemental Food Program; and,
- (3) Support efforts to ensure that charitable giving incentives benefiting nonprofits remain in any tax reform effort.

**ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017.


**CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
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Michael Pipe, Chair

  
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Mark Higgins, Commissioner

  
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Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
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Margaret N. Gray, Administrator